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## Career Center Expo Benefits Pumas

By Casey Snow  
News Writer

The Career Center at Saint Joseph's College tried something completely new this year with their week long career week event. This event included new activities and programs each day during the week of February 16 through February 20, 2015. Since a lot of students at SJC are unaware of the Career Center and the many services that they offer, this week was a great way to not only inform students of these resources but also give them a head start on planning and preparing for their future.

"Career week was a great event to participate in. People had the opportunity to have their resumes reviewed, look into internships, and learn proper interview attire," says Katie Manika, a freshman Biology major who participated in many of the week's activities.

Monday, February 16th was the kickoff day for the week which the Career Center began with an open house and an Oreobar. Jessica Chapman, the Career and Leadership Development Director, and Alexia Fields, The Career and Leadership Development Coordinator, planned the event, and exceeded

their goals to get a great start to the week. "Our initial goal for the open house was to get 100 visitors and by the end of the day, we had around 152," Jessica Chapman told the Observer.

Tuesday from 8:00am-12:00pm students were able to attend the Resume Clinic to get their resumes checked over or begin building one. Resumes are extremely important when working towards a career, and the Career Center can help students build one to get the career they are working towards. To build off of the Resume Clinic, Wednesday followed with Saint Joseph's College's What Not to Wear: Career Edition. This program was held to help students better understand what to wear on important events such as interviews, networking, and the first day on the job.

Thursday was the day of the Collegiate Career Expo which took place in Indianapolis from 10:00am-3:00pm. The Career Expo is an annual event that over 100 employees attend. Saint Joseph's College takes part in a program with many other smaller liberal arts schools, making this Expo open only to these schools. "The Career Expo went great, three students already have interviews and they said our students did a lot of research and dressed very well

for the occasion," says Chapman. Friday's event took place from 11:00-1:00 and students got the opportunity to plan for a summer internship to help with their career experience. Tate Hickey, a junior Sociology major, told the Observer "I like how the career center reached out to us with festive activities to help us get more involved with internship research. I also got to sign up for indianaintern.net which has already been really helpful."

Throughout the week, over 300 students and employees attended the events and learned about the Career Center and how they can start preparing now for the future in their careers. "We got the chance to see many new faces, and have about 20 new appointments as a result of this week. Our social media pages have over 100 new followers which is great for the students to get involved and begin a successful career," Chapman told the Observer.

The Career Center will be hosting another event on March 23 through March 27, 2015 called Countdown to Cap and Gown; this event will be a senior week to help make sure seniors have jobs or receive information on graduate schools. The Career Center encourages students to attend this event; students can expect to hear more about this upcoming event shortly.

*Below: Rachel Slaughter gets help from Alexia Fields, the Career and Leadership Development Coordinator, on her resume at the resume clinic in the Core Building during Career Week. Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Career Center.*



## SJC Education Department Students Supplement Their Learning

By Kylie Hill  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On February 28, 2015 five Saint Joseph's College students traveled to the University of Saint Francis (USF) in Fort Wayne, Indiana to attend a teaching professional development conference for kindergarten through twelfth grade educators called the "Best Practices Showcase." The conference was sponsored by the University of Saint Francis School of

Professional studies and organized by Nancy Hanke, the USF Showcase Chairperson.

The conference offered over 70 sessions and every attendee was required to pick their top fifteen sessions and then were placed in five to attend the day of the conference. The sessions covered a range of topics from technology, to techniques, to teacher evaluations, to state mandated testing. Presenters ranged from college education professors,

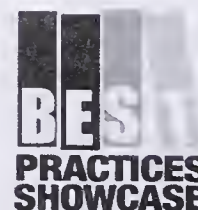
elementary through high school teachers, and administrators. One presenter was Kathy Nimmer, the 2015 Indiana State Teacher of the Year and one of four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year. She is currently an English Teacher at William Henry Harrison High School in Lafayette, Indiana.

Saint Joseph's College students reported that they found the conference to be extremely beneficial; they attended a variety of sessions and said that they learned about apps and techniques that will help in their future classrooms. Taylor Baima, a sophomore Elementary Education major, attended a session about foldables; she commented that "they gave us 20 different foldable examples...they demonstrated how to make them, how they have used them in the past, and how it is possible to use them. I feel that these techniques will help me teach my future students."

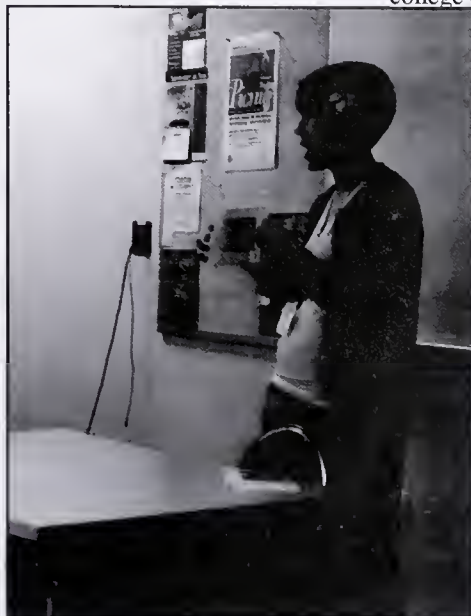
Adjunct professor Shannon Anderson, who is a high ability coordinator and literacy coach at Van Elementary School and

a published children's author, was one of the presenters at the conference. She gave a presentation entitled "Become an Amazing Writing Teacher" which provided practical information on how to tackle the writing block and keep students excited about writing.

Despite the long drive, the students that attended reported that the conference was very enjoyable and a great learning experience. They recommend that any student who is in education or any current educator attend next year if possible.



*Above: The logo for the Best Practices Showcase held at The University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana on February 28, 2015. Five Saint Joseph's College Students attended. Phot courtesy of University of Saint Francis*



*Left: A speaker at the Best Practices Showcase held in Fort Wayne, Indiana at The University of Saint Francis gives a presentation to current and future educators that will help them be better teach their diverse students. Five education students attended the event. All reported learning beneficial techniques, strategies, and new technology. Photo courtesy of Shannon Anderson.*

# Housing Makes Big Changes

By Ana Lara  
News Writer

This 2015-2016 school year will bring many campus housing changes here at Saint Joseph's College. The Housing department has made changes ranging from the prices for each residence hall to who is allowed to live in each hall.

Head Resident Assistant Rachel Slauter says that Noll will become all upperclassman girls. The rooms will be doubles with two rooms, however, she didn't explain why they made this

change. The reason behind Noll becoming just upperclassmen, she says, is that "Seifert is big enough to hold all freshman girls."

Merlini and Bennett will stay the same including all freshman boys and excluding all upperclassmen boys. Rachel also mentioned that there was a new housing hire, and Saint Joseph's College welcomes Josh Lemieux to the Housing Department Staff.

Brittany Stantorm '16, future senior says "you can't really be upset with the price because you've got to live somewhere; however, this gives a chance for

the upperclassmen to live closer and I also heard that they are redoing the first floor bathroom."

She and her roommate Megan Gramhofer hope to live in Noll next year. For the most part Halas, Gallagher, Schwietermann, the Apartments and Justin will stay the same with a few minor changes in Justin as to which gender gets which floor.

Big Housing changes are happening next year. Best of luck to those who wish to get into a certain hall!

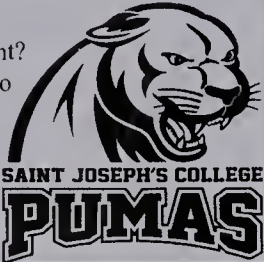


Left: Seifert Hall. Next year, Housing and Resident Life made the decision to make this residence hall an all female freshman hall. In the past, it held a mixture of freshman and upperclassmen. This change is meant to allow all the freshmen girls to be in the same dorm so that they can get to know each other and adjust to college life together. Photo courtesy of Marketing.

## Upcoming Puma Events!

- March 6 - Spring Break Starts
- March 15 - Women's Basketball Banquet
- March 18 - Student Development Meeting
- March 19 - Feast of Saint Joseph
- March 21 - The Puma Experience
- March 23 - Cap and Gown Countdown

Want to get the word out about your event? Email the date and name of your event to Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu!



## Meet the Staff: Professor Anne Gull

By Natalie Dziadosz  
News Writer

Many people in the science department know Dr. Anne Gull very well. Dr. Gull got her BS in Chemistry from St. Francis College (now called University of St. Francis), and her PhD in Chemistry from Purdue University. Not many people may know, Dr. Gull did not originally start out as a Chemistry major. She was torn between majoring in Art or Chemistry. When asked why she chose Chemistry as a major, she says, "The reason I chose chemistry is that I struggled with the art class. When you are doing what you are meant to do, it shouldn't be such a struggle." I think many people would agree with her.

When asked why she wanted to come to Saint Joseph's College, she said, "My husband grew up in Rensselaer. We wanted to be close to family and I wanted to teach at a small college." She teaches a variety of classes here at Saint Joseph's College, including: Core 5, Core 6, General Chemistry 1 and 2, History of Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry, Chemistry Seminar and Instrumental Methods of Analysis. With that many classes, not just science majors have probably seen her around campus.



Professor of Chemistry, Dr. Anne Gull  
Photo courtesy of Dr. Gull

When asked what her favorite class to teach is, she responded with general chemistry. When asked what she likes most about the Core Program, she said, "That I still learn something new every day. I really enjoy being a co-learner with the students."

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Gull attends a many sporting events. She says, "Since my sons play soccer, basketball, baseball and golf, I do attend a lot of sporting events." To anyone who may want to take her classes, she says, "When I say you need to have math skills, I really mean it. Also, do the practice problems that I recommend for the quizzes."

# Campus Ministry Holds Confirmation Retreats

By John Irak  
News Writer

Campus ministry has always been a major part of Saint Joseph's College. From Lent and C.P.P.S. functions to car washes and athletic events, the ministry truly gives a hand for any and everything involved on our campus. One recent program that's occurred is our campus's confirmation retreats.

February 21st saw the beginning of a brand new retreat opportunity for students in the community. Both juniors and seniors in high school got involved in this most recent confirmation retreat. It was a great opportunity for these students to get familiar with Saint Joseph's College as a campus and get affiliated with some current students and staff. Brother Tim and Brother Rob lead this program alongside current Saint Joseph's College students. Joey Krisch '15, a senior involved with the program, explained some of the important information regarding the retreat. He explained that, "the purpose of the retreat is to get them ready for Confirmation. Candidates need to understand that they are becoming adults in the Catholic Church and that their mom and dad will

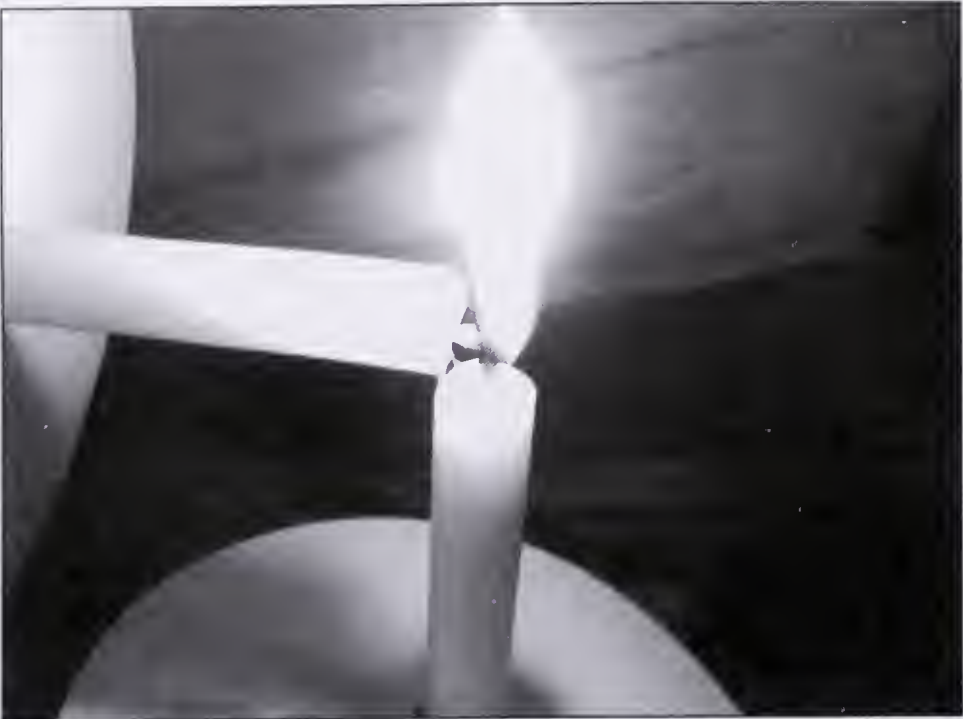
not be telling them what to do. It will be there choice to continue with their faith and that is where we come in to show them that we are much happier because we continue to practice Catholicism."

This can be difficult choice to make in anyone's life. When asked about he got started with the retreat program, Krisch said, "I was told about the pizza we had at the meetings my freshman year so that was a big selling point. Plus, I remembered how much doubt I had when I was getting confirmed, and I do not want anyone else to feel that way." With the strong involvement of the campus ministry, Krisch held several responsibilities while working with this most recent retreat: "I was the director for this retreat, and Brother Tim and myself had to play around with the schedule quite a bit because we had a smaller group than usual. My main responsibility was to keep us on track during the retreat and to make sure everyone had a great experience."

This program creates amazing chances for Pumas both old and young to reach out to students and help them on their spiritual journey. It allows them to have elders like Brother Rob and Tim, or students like Joey to look up

to and ask questions. When asked what he would describe as his favorite moment, Krisch said, "My favorite moment was when we passed around the candle and said where we see the Holy Spirit."

For more information about the retreat, contact Brother Rob, Brother Tim, or any other member of Campus Ministry.



The candle was passed as participants said where they see the Holy Spirit.  
Photo courtesy of Google Images

# Response To: Selling Snow

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

By Dr. Rob Pfaff  
Guest Writer

I, along with others, read with dismay Ms. Bottorff’s opinion article about Science Olympiad, or at least the Café aspect of it. Saint Joseph’s College has hosted a Science Olympiad tournament every winter for about 25 years. This year, around 50 of our students, from every residence hall, worked on creating events and producing documents and scoring procedures for them. More than a dozen faculty and other employees (including Physical Plant, Janitorial, Admissions, Campus Computing, and the Student Success Center), several alums, and two College Trustees also worked hard before and during the tournament. All our expenses came from registration fees or our own pockets. Each winter, nearly 400 middle and high school students participate in our tournament, along with their teachers and many parents, raising their numbers to almost 500 people. I believe it is the largest single outreach event on our campus. Science Olympiad is so large that it uses every classroom, lab, and recreational space in Core, Science, the Rec Center, and the

Fieldhouse. In all, 51 events were staged. Saint Joe could not pay for the exposure that Science Olympiad gives us.

If students weren’t aware that Science Olympiad was being held, I don’t know why. It was on the College calendars, listed in John May’s Weekly Puma Happenings email, and I’m sure openly discussed. And with all those visitors on campus, miserable cold, weather advisories, and participating schools’ policies on how far their students could range, exactly where did anyone think they might eat? This year, Chandler Morley reported that about 180 of our visitors purchased lunch in the Café. What Ms. Bottorff likely ran into was a sudden surge in their numbers as they finished competing in an event and wanted to eat before going to another event. I am sorry if a College-wide outreach program that is older than most of our students and involves hundreds of people took anyone by surprise. It shouldn’t have. I hope that future opinion articles address meaningful College issues, and Saint Joe has many, and not simply inconveniences.

By: Kertney Brozyna  
Opinions Writer

A Massachusetts man has been found to be selling snow from his own backyard to warmer climates. He ships the snow in a Styrofoam cooler. Of course, not all of the snow is completely intact when it is going through the shipping process. The man, Kyle Waring, says that some of the snow melts by the time it reaches its destination. However, you can still make roughly 10-15 snowballs from the snow left over. Waring is selling the snow on his new website, ShipSnowYo.com. He is seen promoting his “bargain price” of snow over twitter. He is selling the snow for the price of \$89 for six pounds. That is almost \$15 for one pound of the gross, cold stuff that makes our lives terrible. Snow makes traveling nearly impossible, makes our noses run, and makes everyone crabby and depressed.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

## Crafting Your Schedule

By Ashley R Brinkman  
Opinions Editor

It is that time of the semester again... class registration. Upperclassman know the struggle of racing to get the perfect Core professor and by now so do most of the underclassman. But I find myself in a peculiar place this semester. I will not be registering for classes next fall, at least not in the traditional sense. I will be studying abroad in London for the fall semester and will not be picking out classes till I get to my destination. In light of this, I find that I should share some wisdom for all of you who will be racing your classmates for the perfect schedule.

### 1. CRAFTING YOUR SCHEDULE

So you have set a date to meet with your advisor. You know you need to take classes for your major and your minor, and there is not much leeway with whom you can take for those classes, but first things first: Core. You have to have the right professor. Your advisor will have someone in mind that they think is great, but let’s be honest, you need to ask around. Find out what kind of grader a professor is. Do they give a lot of quizzes? Do they require discussion/essential questions? Do they lead good discussions? Ask the important questions and do not be afraid to ask the professor yourself.

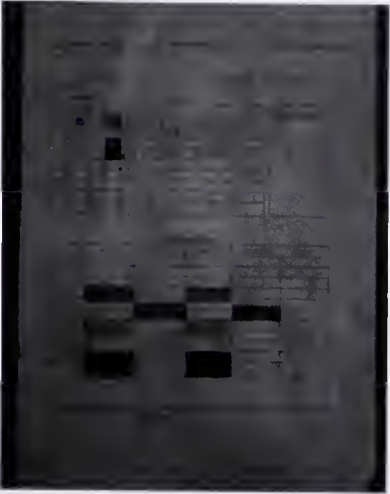
Photo courtesy of Savannah Carver

### 2. SET TWO ALARMS

The worst thing that could possibly happen to you the morning your registration opens is you forget to wake up on time. You have crafted the perfect schedule, but now it is ruined when you wake up at 10:30 AM and all the sections are filled up. You are probably stuck with a Core professor you do not like, and there is also a good chance that some of your major or minor classes have filled up as well. So remember, set two alarms (three if you have to!).

### 3. GET EXCITED

If you have registered for classes, and you have exactly what you want, get excited. The semester is half over and summer vacation is on its way! And since you have probably gotten up crazy early to register for class, fill that cup of coffee up and daydream about those hot summer days that will soon be on your side.



## Home Schooling

By Meghan Hennessey  
Opinions Writer

There are two activities that that come into my mind when I think of public schools; academics and sports. For many students, athletics are just as important to them as academics. Sports allow students to be a part of a team and have fun working together after a long day of school. Friends get the chance to be together while at the same time staying healthy. But what about students who don’t go to public school? What about kids who are home-schooled? Shouldn’t they get the chance to play sports too? Many students today are opting to study at home instead of attending public or private school. Home-schooling offers many benefits to a student. One downfall, however, is the absence of sports. Home-schooled students don’t have the same opportunities that public school students have when it come to sports. In some states home-schooled students are allowed to join public school teams. This isn’t the case in all states though. Home-schoolers are often denied the options to be on a sports team.

Why should a home-schooled

student be allowed to play on a public school team? They don’t attend the school so why should they be given the same options as the students who do attend the school? While home-schooled students don’t attend the actual school, they do still have academic standards. They work just as hard at their studies as the public school students. Home-schooling is a better option for some students. They should not have to sacrifice their academic studies in order to play a sport. What harm can be caused by allowing home-schooled students to play public school sports? Some argue that they will take away positions from students actually attending the school. This can most certainly be true. But if the home-schooled student is a better athlete than the one he or she replaced what’s the problem? Teams should want to improve by bringing talented athletes in. If the home-schooled student were to attend the public instead he or she would still fill the spot. Students should not be discriminated against in athletics simply because they have different academic preferences.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

# Marvel’s First Lady

By: Joe Cain  
Features Writer

One of the biggest criticisms of the Marvel movies has been their lack of major female characters. Sure, there are some awesome ladies throughout the series, but in roughly a dozen movies, not a single one has featured a woman as it’s main character.

There’s no Black Widow movie coming any time soon.

Enter *Agent Carter*, an eight episode mini series featuring Margaret “Peggy” Carter, super spy extraordinaire, and the first female Marvel character to star in her own story.

For those of you who may not remember her, Peggy Carter was the ally/romantic interest of Steve Rogers/Captain America during World War II. The two of them shared a blooming romance over the course of the war that was tragically cut short when Cap was seemingly killed, when crashing an enemy plane into the Arctic.

Now, let me answer a question

you may have.

“Why would I want to watch a show about Captain America’s girlfriend?”

I’m glad you asked.

Peggy Carter has no super powers. She never dons a superhero costume, and she never challenges a god-like super villain with witty banter as they duel high above a metropolitan city.

Yet Peggy is one of the most significant characters in the Marvel movie universe, and has gained a significant fanbase online.

What sets her apart from other love interest characters like Jane Foster or Pepper Potts is that she has a story outside of her romantic life.

Yes, Peggy fell in love with Captain America, but after his “death” she went on and lived a life. She got married (though we don’t know her husband’s name) had children, grandchildren, and

changed the world forever.

Peggy went on to found S.H.I.E.L.D, the spy agency that has touched every story in the Marvel movies, and that brought the Avengers together.

What’s even more interesting is that throughout her appearances in the movies, we’ve seen the beginning of Peggy’s story, fighting alongside Cap, and we’ve seen the end of her story, as a 96 year old bedridden woman, her mind slowly deteriorating to Alzheimer’s.

*Agent Carter* starts filling in the seventy years worth of blanks.

The story picks up a year after the events of *Captain America: The First Avenger*, a year after the end of the war.

Despite her wartime accomplishments, Peggy has been reduced to a glorified secretary, with no respect from her male coworkers at the Scientific Strategic Reserve.

This is where one of the

show’s central themes comes into play, sexism and the disenfranchisement of women in the aftermath of WWII.

During the war, women took up factory and manufacturing jobs when the men went off to fight in the war. When the soldiers returned however, women were expected to leave these new roles behind and resume the more traditional gender roles.

The same has happened to Peggy, and her role in helping defeat the evil Hydra has been dismissed by her coworkers of something she piggybacked off her association with Captain America.

On a daily basis, she endures blatantly sexist behavior that today would earn a guy a punch to the jaw. In the 1940’s, it was common, acceptable behavior.

Just when things are getting even worse, an old friend re-enters Peggy’s life:

Howard Stark, genius, billionaire inventor, and the future father of Iron Man. He’s been framed for treason, and some of his most dangerous doomsday-esque devices have been stolen by some nefarious person or group.

Peggy is the only person he trusts to clear his name, and, desperate to prove herself, she jumps at the chance.

She’s assisted in her investigation by Edwin Jarvis, Howard’s butler, and the personality on which Iron Man would eventually base the AI that lives in his armor suits.

What follows is essentially an eight hour Marvel movie, with a single, cohesive storyline that flows from the opening scene to the inevitable post credit stinger that teases at a possible second season.

The mini-series format is very beneficial to the story. It’s sister show, *Agents of Shield*, suffered greatly from having to drag its innaugral season over twenty two episodes, dragging it’s feet to wait for the movies that it was running parallel to.

*Agent Carter* is lean, tightly written, and develops a number of pre existing characters in the Marvel Univers. Peggy’s story is fleshed out, and her platonic partnership with Jarvis is probably the highlight of the experience. It’s always refreshing to see a duo dynamic that isn’t rooted in the “will they, won’t they” romantic angle. These two are friends, nothing more or less.

Overall, *Agent Carter* tells one of the best stories in the Marvel movie universe, and is well worth checking out for fans of the franchise.

## Fight For Yourself

By: Vivian Myers  
Features Writer

You’re standing in the ring. In one corner, you stand hunched. Bruises, blood, and open wounds cover your entire body. You try to wipe the dirt from your eyes and bring your tired fists up to cover your battered face. You are alone.

In the opposite corner stands your opponent. He smears the thin trickle of blood coming from his mouth across his cheek. The tape wrapped around his knuckles has split in places and bears the red/orange stain from your blood. This man is every choice you have to make, if not life itself.

Throughout all our lives, we’ve had to make many tough choices. You had to choose to get good grades in school. You had to choose where to apply to college and which you would attend. And you had to make the choice to drink illegally at college. All of these were your choices, right?

As we break into adulthood, we must keep in mind that we can sometimes be influenced by others. However, it is still our choice to NOT be influenced. Our decisions must be our own. In this ring of life you fight against these choices- even if you fight the losing battle sometimes.

Life steps from his corner, angry and tough. He slams

his enormous fist into your left cheek, jarring some teeth loose. He then grabs your shoulder and thrusts his other fist up into your stomach. You start to spit blood onto the mat. Your vision starts to take a toll, and his tape becomes a red blur as it hits you again. If your ribs weren’t already broken they are now. You swing through the pain but to no avail. He laughs and you feel his spittle land on your face. You fall to the mat again- down for the count.

Life hits you like this- it comes out of nowhere and plants you on the mat. It knocks you into next week sometimes. But it’s our choices that determine whether we get back up.

Through a swollen eye you see your foe. You push yourself up. The fight is still on. After ducking another blow, you ram your elbow into his stomach. You grab his head and crush your knee into his face. His body falls hard onto the mat. Soon you’re on top of him. Your fist meets his face- Pound. Pound. Pound. He’s out- no count needed.

Life gives us choices and it beats us up. Think of all the times you’ve had to choose something and how you thought about it for days and you still didn’t feel comfortable with your decision. You’re mentally exhausted and with your last power strike you make the right choice. Fighting for yourself is difficult but if you won’t, who will?

By: Karen Gramajo  
Features Writer

I own a pocket watch. It’s small, gold, and sits in my right pocket. It’s simple and I love it tremendously. It was given to me on my birthday by one of my dear friends. The swirling décor on the inside stirs dreams and memories. Smooth like a stone and calming as a lullaby. I like placing it under my pillow while I sleep. During classes, the watch is placed on the table to keep tabs. People glance at my watch and form the ghost of a smile on the corners of their mouths. My favorite part is messing with it; opening and closing the timepiece. The ticking makes me drowsy and the reflection it gives brings nostalgia of me looking at funny mirrors in carnivals. The chain has red ink permanently drenched on it. Some of my friends have better pocket watches that are decades old or better decorated than mine. I’ve seen watches like Seiko, Omega, Bulova, Oris, and Bulgari. Manual and automatic watches from 1950’s to 1990’s are wonderful. I used to own a waterproof Seiko Automatic stainless steel watch. It was one of my favorites. Another is the Pulsar LED watch, even though it’s hard to find now in flea markets. It’s one of the first watches to be digital. The 1955 Zenith 18k gold watch was my absolute preferred. Swiss made and 126-6 Incabloc shock-proof system. Pity, I had to sell it for a present to my sister. I know a guy that goes yard sale hunting and sells watches, jewelry, and other trinkets. On Saturday mornings from 8am to 3 pm we travel all over the county for yard sales. My favorite hobby is finding vintage stuff. Jewelry like pearls and gold is thrilling to search. Going to flea markets and finding interesting timepieces tucked away behind sparks my adventurous self. Over the

summer, there was a Caravelle by Bulova with leather strap. A Macedonian coin was discovered and sold for \$300 and it grows in value over time. Anyway, my watch is connected to my obsession. It grew on me during 2009 and fell through when I had the Zenith watch. I enjoy the mechanisms of the pieces such as the nickel motor barrel bridge, winding wheel, balance end stones, or hairspring. The designs on the gears fascinates me and I love the timeless aspect to it. Makes my day. Here it seems like I am one of the few people that carries around a pocket watch. I feel really special whenever I have it with me. I am one of the cool kids on the block.



Above: a pocket watch, similiar in style to the one that Karen has.  
Photo courtesy of Google images



Above: Chinese symbols for “fight.” Image courtesy of Google Images

# More Than Just Poetry

By Katie Davisson  
Features Editor

Poetry Slam. It’s something that not many people know of. People know of literature. They know of Poe and Frost, but do they know of Dallagiacomo and Hilborn? Do they know about PSI and Button Poetry?

A slam itself is simply a poetry competition in which poets perform original work alone or in teams before an audience, which serves as judge. The work is judged as much on the manner and enthusiasm of its performance as its content or style, and many slam poems are not intended to be read silently from the page. The structure of the traditional slam was started by construction worker and poet Marc Smith in 1986 at a reading series in a Chicago jazz club. Since then it has grown into a nation-wide phenomenon and also has touring companies for which the poets get paid for performing.

Slam poetry is people from today, people like you and me, talking about real issues. Talking about the problems that they have gone through. Talking about the things that people are too scared to say. They’re not obscure, they’re straight to the point, they’re real, they’re raw.

I discovered slam poetry about two years ago. It was summer and I was in the basement of my aunt’s home. I stayed with her that summer and there were many nights spent with everyone else asleep and me on my laptop. So, one night, while I was browsing and listening to my favorite songs on Youtube I came across “Neil Hilborn - “OCD” (Rustbelt 2013).” I listened and found myself crying by the end of the poem. It was about a boy who has obsessive compulsive disorder and falls in love. At the beginning the girl loves him for his flaws, but eventually tires of them. I became obsessed with it and wanted more immediately. That night I didn’t go to sleep, instead, I searched the web for any videos of slam poetry I could find.

Not only did the poems I found speak to me on a personal level, but it encouraged me to explore myself and the type of literature I personally was composing. It’s motivational, it’s encouraging, and slam poetry is just down right real. It pushes me to not settle for anything less than what I want in my life, to not accept that things are the way they are and there is nothing I can do. It makes me aware of others and the things they have gone through. All in all, slam poetry is a tool as important as music or anything else that is food for the soul. So, if you have the chance, look into it. It’ll make you feel some amazing things.



Above: Desiree Dallagiacomo, 3rd place Poetry Slam winner at Nationals.  
Photo courtesy of Google Images

# The Interview

By Jimmy Kile  
Features Editor

Released on Christmas Eve last year, *The Interview*, starring Seth Rogen and James Franco was met with a flurry of commotion. This comedy/satire film tells the story of television producer Aaron Rapaport (Rogen) and talk show host Dave Skylark (Franco) as they do the impossible: travel to North Korea to conduct an interview with Kim Jong Un. The CIA, upon hearing of Rapaport and Franco’s plan, contacts them and tells them that the US government wants the duo to assassinate Kim Jong Un while they are in North Korea for the interview. The rest of the film follows the quirky and dysfunctional duo as they struggle to accomplish their mission and come to terms with the feelings of affection for their North Korean friends they make.

This movie heavily satirizes Kim Jong Un, North Korea, and the state of affairs in North Korea, so much so that North Korea threatened US theaters that were going to show the film. This caused the movie to be released to less than 100 theaters nationwide and then on the internet. This means that this 44 million dollar film had no chance to break even or make a profit as it raked in \$5,352,387.

More satirical, but disturbing parts that make audiences think about the state of affairs in North Korea are present. One such part shows Un’s control of the media when Skylark is introduced to North Korea. A stage is erected for Skylark to be introduced on, but there is no audience. The North Korean cameras focus solely on the stage as the woman

introducing Skylark pretends to speak to a large live audience. The most crucial point of satire to the film is in the grocery store that the duo sees during their visit. The film does an excellent job of explaining the importance of the grocery store.

The laughs keep coming as we watch the duo interview Eminem, Rob Lowe, go through basic basic assassination 101, and hang out with Kim Jong Un.

Definitely a notable factor of the movie is its soundtrack. Snippets of rock and pop culture music are timed just perfectly in certain parts of the film to give the duo an air of bad assness, when in reality they’re fumbling around with their mission. The best sequence of the film is a montage of Skylark and Un driving around in a Soviet tank to Katy Perry’s “Firework”, a song that turns out to have much meaning to the story of the film.

Despite how good I think the movie is though, there are still some problems with the film.

One of the two things that bothers me the most is that there is no explanation for what happens to the poison strip Rapaport wears on his hand. One minute he’s wearing it in a failed attempt to assassinate Un. Immediately following he’s having sex with a Korean girl and hasn’t had time to remove the strip, so he’s trying desperately to keep the strip from making contact with her skin and makes a “no hands” rule. Then he’s still wearing the strip as he and Skylark are talking about how to kill Un. Then all of a sudden the scene changes and

Rapaport and the Korean girl are having sex again and Rapaport is using both hands. Then we see him rubbing his face while he watches Skylark conduct the interview. What happened to the poison strip?

My other big problem is with how Rapaport and Skylark act when they wear the poison strip on their hands. The whole point of the strip is that it will transfer poison onto Un when Skylark and Un shake hands, but while they are wearing the strip, Rapaport and Skylark display all kinds of signs that something is up. They walk very slowly and have a large, nervous smiles on their faces as they keep glancing at their hands. That, combined with the funny way they hold their body while attempting to shake hands with Un, is far from what people consider a normal handshake and should set off all kinds of mental red flags for Un.

This film was easily one of the best and funniest movies I have ever seen. The constant *Lord of the Rings* references appeal to Tolkien fans and those aware of current events would appreciate the humorous relief from such a dire situation. All in all, I would recommend this movie to anyone looking for some laughs. It’s now on Netflix or available for streaming on various internet sites. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the dysfunctional adventure that is *The Interview*.

# Lenten Challenge

By: Christina O’Connell  
Features Writer

It’s that time of year again, the time where Christians remember that Jesus spent forty days in the desert without food or water. With this inspiration, we have to face the challenge of figuring out what to give up for forty days and the added bonus of meatless Fridays. Not eating meat isn’t the burden, but what our choosing to sacrifice is. When Ash Wednesday came around I wasn’t sure of what to do. I didn’t know what I wanted to give up. The last few Lents, I didn’t come up with anything special or effective. My go to has been cutting out pop or some other food. They’re not easy, but not difficult to say good-bye to for forty days.

This Lent, I sought to change this habit. I thought that I needed a real challenge for Lent. Fresh out of ideas, I resorted to social media for help. I posted a status asking people to give suggestions of what they thought would be a beneficial Lenten

promise. To my surprise more people commented than I thought. I still had some replies of giving up drinks, food, and entertainment, but I was hoping for more than that. I soon found it. Someone mentioned that I wash my hands with cold water every day. I didn’t think this was too big of a deal, but it sparked what I would choose to do. Instead of washing my hands with cold water, why not go even deeper and give up warm showers for Lent? Giving up the luxury of a warm shower has been quite the experience. It’s not ideal to take cold showers during the winter. Each cold shower progressively gets more challenging and like Jesus I’m tempted to turn the water to warm each time.

Taking cold showers has been rough but a constant reminder of how much my faith means to me. Whenever I think of turning that shower knob I think of Jesus and how He was able to resist the devil. He’s been my motivation and my strength throughout this

whole process. I can’t give up now, while I’ve already made it so far. Jesus never gave in and I don’t want to let Him down. I have to ignore the goose bumps and ignore myself. I think part of the Lenten journey is finding beauty in sacrifice and focusing our lives back on faith. Our goal is to forget about our wants and put our needs in Christ.



Above:  
Cold Showers for Lent  
Photo courtesy of Google Images

## Track & Field Beats Record at GLCV

By Hannah Wallace  
Sports Co-Editor



*Pictured Samantha Nirva getting ready to clear hurdles. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland*

Which was faster? The pounding of their hearts or the racing of their feet... a question one may ask when reflecting back on the Saint Joseph's Men and Women Track and Field team as they competed at the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Championship this past weekend. The team traveled to University of Indianapolis to compete on February 28th and March 1st in their two day conference.

There were outstanding performances from the Pumas

as the men's team finished fifth overall and the women seventh. SJC has a handful of competitors who will be traveling to Nationals, and for the first time in history Logan Barrett qualified in the 5000 meters with a third place finish and time of 14:47. Racing close behind was Justin Hays finishing in seventh place with a time of 15:06. Barrett also placed in the mile with a time of 4:12 and a second place finish. Anthony Bradley was the shot put champion with a throw of 53 feet, .75 inches as he will be traveling

to indoor Nationals as well. After hurdling his way to the third place finish awarding him a bronze medal, Oluwayemi Ogunbamere competed in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.51 seconds.

Just as impressive performances resulted from the women's side as Leeanna Knight earned herself a silver medal as she placed second in long jump with a personal record of 18 feet, 1.5 inches. Sam Nirva hurdled her way to a gold medal in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.79 seconds, also posting a time of

8.75 in the preliminary heat, and who will also be on her way to Nationals. Danielle Perkins and Frehiwet Negassi scored for the team as Perkins landed a sixth place finish in the 60 meters with a time of 8.05 seconds and Negassi seventh in the 3000 meters with a personal record of 10:30.

Now that the indoor season has come to an end, the Pumas are gearing all their focus towards outdoor. It is only the beginning for the Pumas, and it all starts on March 21st on their home track.

## Women's Basketball Seizes Close Victory

By Jessica Cates  
Sports Co-Editor

On Thursday, February 19th, the Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team traveled to Kentucky to take on the Knights of Bellarmine University. Despite another double-double from Kalea Parks, the Pumas fell 61-50. The Pumas struggled early, shooting only 27% and committing nine turnovers. In the first half, the Knights (11-15, 7-9 GLVC) at one point held a 14 point lead before two late three pointers by Courtney Kvachkoff closed the gap and helped to bring the Pumas within 10 with a score of 36-26 going into halftime.

The Pumas came out of the locker strong, scoring the first seven points of the second half, all by Parks, and bringing the game to within three with 13 minutes remaining. The Knights rallied however and brought their lead back to 10 with just 10 minutes left in the game. With six minutes remaining and trailing by 11, the Pumas made one last rally. They managed to pull within 5 with a score of 52-47 before the Knights responded and pulled away late in the game.

Notable performances for the Pumas include Parks, who finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds, Kvachkoff, who recorded nine points, and Tityana Miller, who added eight points.

The following Saturday, the Pumas traveled to Evansville, Indiana to take on the University

of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles. The game began competitively. Midway through the first half, the Pumas were within three with a score of 17-14 before the Screaming Eagles (22-5, 14-3 GLVC) went on a 22 to three run to go into the locker room with a 39-17 lead. In the first half, the Pumas committed 10 turnovers and managed to convert only five of 23 shooting attempts from the field.

After the break, the Screaming Eagles did not let up. They continued to build on their lead while the Pumas continued to struggle with shooting and turnovers, of which they committed 14 more in the second half. USI shot 48% on the night, while the Pumas were held to only 19% shooting.

Statistical leaders for the Pumas include Parks, who ended the game with nine points and six rebounds and Kvachkoff, who recorded six points on the night.

The following Thursday, the Pumas traveled to the University of Indianapolis to take on the Greyhounds. The Pumas forced three overtimes and came within one point of ruining Senior Night for the Greyhounds. The Pumas (11-17, 7-11 GLVC) led by as much as 11 points during the second half of play, but the Greyhounds (11-15, 8-10 GLVC) never gave up and managed to fight their way into overtime.

The Pumas Lauren Davis scored the first overtime points and that three point edge remained until



*Pictured: Junior Lauren Davis driving in for a basket  
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland*

the 1:19 mark. The Pumas got a stop on the next Greyhound possession, but missed their ensuing shot. Kalea Parks' steal with 20 seconds remaining forced UIndy to foul. Parks split her free throws to make it a two possession game. Two layups by UIndy and two missed free throws by the Pumas forced another over time.

The Pumas again started off strong and held a 75-71 lead with 2:34 left before a Greyhound layup cut that lead in half with 1:46 remaining. Another layup tied the game with just one minute remaining. A defensive stand by the Pumas led to them holding the final possession, but a missed Lauren Davis three led to

yet another overtime.

In the final overtime, the Greyhounds held a four point, 82-78 lead with 40 seconds remaining. Courtney Kvachkoff's three pulled the Pumas to within one and a defensive stand led to one final chance, but Davis's would-be game winner fell short.

Notable performances for the Pumas include Parks, who finished with 19 points, Abbey Titzer, who added 18 points and nine rebounds, and Kvachkoff and Davis, who each recorded 18 points.

The Pumas await their opponent in the GLVC Tournament.

### Upcoming Events

#### March 7th

Baseball vs. Gannon University  
in Winter Haven, FL  
TBA

#### March 8th

Baseball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan  
in Winter Haven, FL  
TBA  
Women's Tennis vs. Calumet  
College of St. Joseph  
1:00 p.m.

#### March 9th

Men's Tennis vs. Calumet  
College of St. Joseph  
1:00 p.m.

#### March 11th

Softball vs. University of Finland  
in Clermont, FL  
9:00 a.m.  
Softball vs. Mercy College in  
Clermont, FL  
11:00 a.m.

#### March 13th

Men's & Women's Track & Field  
National Championship at  
Birmingham, AL

#### March 14th

Men's & Women's Track & Field  
National Championship at  
Birmingham, AL

Softball vs. Missouri S&T at  
Saint Joseph's College  
12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

# Baseball Has High Hopes for 2015

By Clayton Marrs  
Guest Writer

The Saint Joseph's College baseball team will take the field again this year looking to improve on last year's 19-31 record and make a trip to the Division II World Series in Cary, North Carolina. After a cancellation due to cold weather on the intended opening weekend (February 21-22), the Pumas are scheduled to open their season February 28 in Evansville, Indiana. The Pumas are then scheduled to spend spring break in Winter Haven and Auburndale, Florida. After heading south, the Pumas head to Liberty, Missouri to open up a full slate of Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) games. The Pumas first home game at Gil Hodges Field is scheduled for March 21 versus Drury University at 12 pm CST.

The 2015 Pumas will feature 27 letter winners led by 13 seniors. Returning in the infield is a veteran group of players led by shortstop Josh Keim and second baseman Matt Skryzpiec. After starting all 50 games at third base last year, Keim, a First

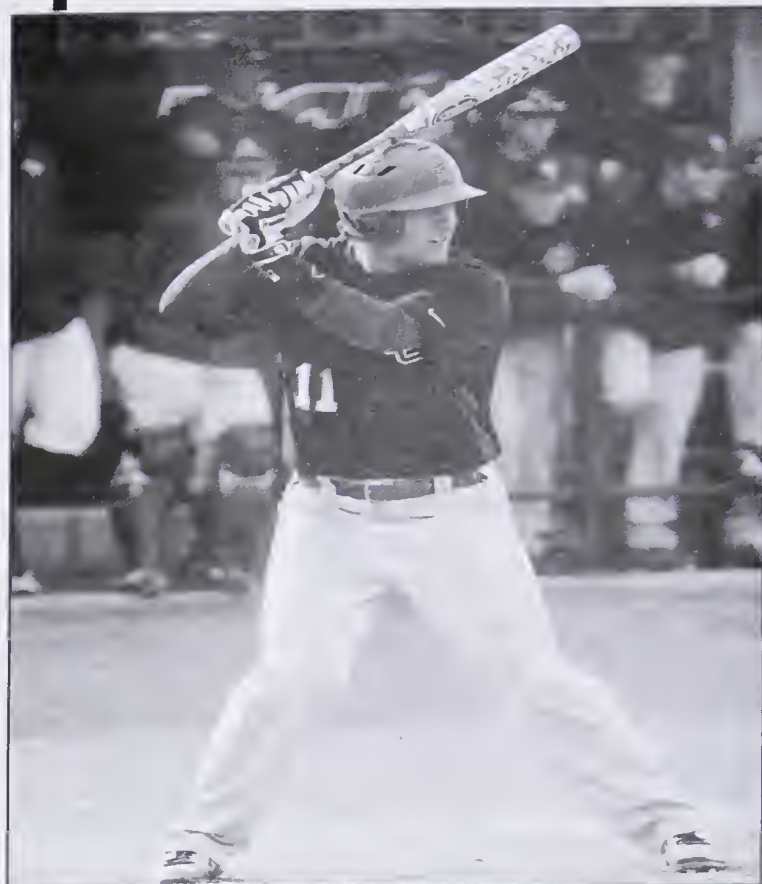
Team All-GLVC performer, will transition to shortstop. Rounding out the infield will be junior first baseman Garrett O'Neill and sophomore third basemen Riley Benner. Nicolas Sampognaro, Josh Handzik and Morgan DePew also could see playing at various positions throughout the infield.

The outfield will be led by senior left fielder Joe Sturino. Sturino finished last year hitting .296 with 15 RBI's. Returners Dominic Olszta, Jake Bigos and Austin Bartle will also compete for playing time in the outfield. The Pumas also welcome two transfers into mix. Chase Fieldhouse and Ben Spieldenner will look to make an immediate impact after having sustained success at the junior college level.

Behind the plate, the Pumas will feature two experienced catchers in junior Josh Bynum and senior Louie Grounds. Bynum returns after hitting a team leading .327 last year. Grounds broke out offensively in 2014, hitting .290 including two home runs. Sophomores Talon Parke and Marty Napleton will also add depth to the catching position.

Both players saw action as freshmen and will be counted on throughout the year.

After losing only two pitchers to graduation, the Pumas will return a full arsenal of arms. Last year's pitching staff led the GLVC in strikeouts per game and ranked second in total strikeouts. Leading the way this year will be seniors Jordan Peterson and Jake Harper. Peterson was a First Team All-GLVC performer last year as he held opponents to a .225 batting average and recorded a 2.71 ERA. Harper posted a 2-2 record during the 2014 campaign and had a 3.86 ERA in 53.1 innings pitched. Juniors Keegan Long and Brian Bayliss will compete for spots in the starting rotation. After seeing time in the rotation and the bullpen, Long will look to solidify himself as a weekend starter. Bayliss will look to continue on last year's success as a starter. In 2014, Bayliss was tied for second in wins with four. The Puma bullpen will also feature a number of solid arms to finish games. Senior Johnathan Williams and junior Mark Chemello will be key guys out of the pen as they



Pictured senior Joe Sturino at the plate  
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland

both have had past success. A handful of others including Bruce Anderson, Bobby Kametas, Zach Aring, AJ Childerson and Kyle Estand will see innings in key situations.

## Men's Basketball Struggles on Road

By Tiffany Gibson  
Sports Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team traveled to Louisville, Kentucky on Thursday, February 9 to play Number 3 ranked Bellarmine University. The Pumas fell to Bellarmine 95-71, even with 25 points scored by Cameron Vines. Dawson Gore scored two early three-point baskets tying the game up 10-10. Bellarmine led the first half 21-19 after Jordan Seele's lay-up midway through the first half. Bellarmine kept the Pumas at 19 points for nearly six minutes, allowing 19 unanswered by the Knights. Cameron Vines ended the half with a three-point basket. The Pumas shot 31% from the field in the first half, trailing the Knights 51-33.

Vines started the second half right where the first ended with a

three-point bucket. Gore followed with back-to-back threes as the Pumas were within 51-42 less than two minutes into the second half. The Knights stopped the Puma rally briefly with a three-point basket of their own.

Four minutes into the second half and Vines scored seven points and brought SJC to 55-48. However, the Knight lead was back into double figures before the first media timeout. The Pumas outscored Bellarmine 17-8 starting the second half. Bellarmine regrouped out of the series of timeouts and responded with a 14-3 run to build a 73-53 lead with 10 minutes left in the game. The Knights comfortably held the lead the rest of the way.

Vine scored 14 of his 25 points in the second half. He also had seven rebounds. Gore added 15 points while Nathan Tidwell

recorded nine points.

The Pumas then traveled to Evansville, Indiana on Saturday for a game against the University of Southern Indiana. In Evansville, the Pumas fell to the Screaming Eagles 90-65.

The Pumas took an early 9-7 lead after Jordan Seele's lay-up, but the Screaming Eagles answered with their first run of the game. USI had a 15-2 rally to take a 22-11 lead seven minutes into the game. Jonah Coble split a pair of free-throws to bring the Pumas within 24-17 midway through the first half. The Screaming Eagles worked the lead into double-digits and ended the half on an 11-1 run over the final three minutes to take a 47-29 lead by the end of the first half.

Cameron Vines scored quickly in the second half with a lay-up. His steal led to a David Hill's

fast-break lay-up. Less than three minutes into the second half, Vines hit a three-point basket to bring the Pumas within 49-34. The run went to 10 unanswered after another three-point bucket by Vines. The Pumas out-scored USI 19-4 through the first nine minutes of the second half. Ryan Rebholz finished the rally after he shot a three-point basket to cut SJC's deficit to 53-46.

The Screaming Eagles answered with 12 unanswered to build a 19 point lead (65-46) with 7:30 left in the game. USI increased the deficit over the final five minutes by out-scoring Saint Joseph's College 21-10.

Vines finished with 24 points and six rebounds to lead the Pumas. Rebholz added 17 points and six rebounds. Nathan Tidwell scored nine points and collected nine rebounds.



Pictured Corey Howard  
Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland

## Puma Athlete Spotlight: Aleksa Kojcinovic

By Katelyn Konow  
Sports Staff Writer

**Aleksa Kojcinovic is a senior from Herceg Novi, Montenegro. He is a Biochemistry major and a Sustainability minor. He plays forward for the men's basketball team.**

**How do you get pumped up for a game?**

"I get pumped up for a game by listening to Serbian rap."

**Who is your biggest supporter and why?**

"My mom is my biggest supporter. She is always there

to support me and help me accomplish my goals."

**Who is your favorite professional team or player?**

"My favorite professional team is Chelsea (soccer) and my favorite player is Vlade Divac (basketball)."

**What is your favorite quote?**

"'When a person wants to do something, he finds a way; when doesn't, he finds an excuse' - Unknown Author"

**Where are you originally from?**

"I am originally from Herceg Novi, Montenegro."

**How did you find out about**

**SJC?**

"I was an exchange student in Valparaiso and I was recruited to play basketball."

**What clubs are you involved in on campus?**

"I am involved in Green Pumas, Science Club, Habitat for Humanity."

**What advice would you give a potential international student?**

"Don't be afraid to say what things are different here and what you used to do at home; people here appreciate hearing it and find it interesting."

**What do you want to pursue as a career and why?**

"I would like to get a PhD in Pharmacology. I find it very interesting figuring out how drugs affect our body."

**As a senior what will you miss most about SJC?**

"The friends that I have made here is what I will miss most."

**Do you have any plans for spring break?**

"I am going to Kentucky and South Carolina with my girlfriend."

*Know an athlete that deserves the spotlight? Email their name to [jcu8913@saintjoe.edu](mailto:jcu8913@saintjoe.edu)*

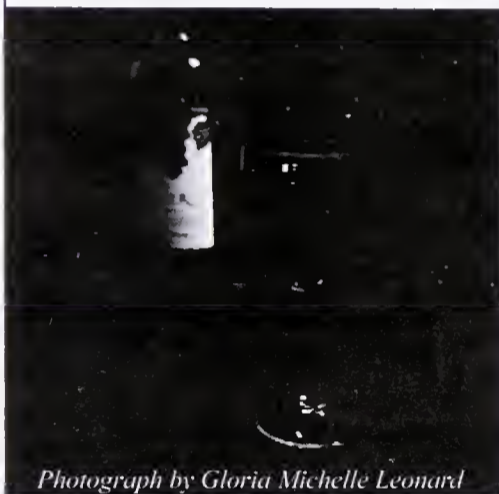


Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's College Athletics Website

### Sweet Red

By Gloria Michelle Leonard

You are dry Merlot while I thirst  
For a sweet red. You are an apple,  
While I've always craved oranges.  
You are hair in my mouth  
When my hands are full.  
You are red-to-green-to-red,  
When sometimes I need yellow.  
I am jeggings and lipstick,  
You're sweatpants and last night's t-shirt.  
Which smells like cigarettes,  
With a beer stain.  
Opposites attract, but we only lie  
On opposite sides of the same spectrum.



Photograph by Gloria Michelle Leonard

### Last Requests

By Nicole Bradie Thomsen

His last requests were muffled. I made the thin incision where his jaw line would sit if it weren't so covered in fat. I think if I hadn't slashed him, I would have just cut his tongue out. I didn't want him to feel much physical pain. No, physical pain can be overcome. It can be controlled.

He used to get headaches and lay on the sofa as if he had stage four cancer. If his stomach was upset, he'd curl into a fat ball and groan. If I accidentally stepped on his foot, he'd lash out and I'd get yelled at. Possibly shoved. It was agitating to date a weak, overweight, high tempered man. I could have given him pain but I wanted something deeper. I wanted physiological damage. I wanted to remind him of every time he laid a hand on me. Even a metaphysical hand. Like when he threw my father's jersey along with my very few and very dear possessions out on to the rusted stairwell, in a rusted puddle, in the cold november musty rain. Or the time he chucked my shoes at me so hard they knocked me over. I fell into the metal skewer from the Christmas tree, gouged my left arm. Six stitches and a tetanus shot.

I remember the last time he crawled into bed with me. He lifted a strand of hair out of my face. He placed it behind my ear. His hand laid on my cheek, for a moment. It was nice, for a moment. His hand slid down my cheek and wrapped my throat. I laid there, eyes shut, his grip tightened. My lungs heaved but my body laid still. I do not beg, not even for life. His hands released, but his fingerprints were etched into my throat. I wore a scarf for three weeks. I said they were hickies. I said they were love marks. I bought cakey make up. I kept it hush.

I wanted to remind him that I am a monster too. Surely my bruises would have had an effect, my scars would have made him feel some guilt. But I didn't have time. I needed security, something he did not offer me.

I watched the blood pool over a lock of curled black chest hair. I watch it dance across his man boobs and pile into his lap. The carpet would be ruined if I hadn't thought this through. It's not my carpet though. It's his. But I did take the time to cover the entire apartment from ceiling to floor in canvas. A little tip from "Dexter." I ran my finger across the slightly serrated blade. It was a bad knife. Cheap, flimsy. He bought it from "Dollar General" the first weekend we moved in. It would have to do though. They would wonder when he didn't show up for work at 10:00am the next morning. They would look.

308 lbs of meat. 6 feet and 3 inches of dead weight. He's too heavy. I'll take him piece by piece. Chop by chop. It's a little obvious when the dumpster stinks of rotten flesh. That won't do.

I turn on the stove. I slap a handful of butter into his favorite Betty Crocker pan. No one would suspect buttered fried steak seasoned barbecue. Even if there was roughly two hundred and eighty pounds of it.

No one will question it because it's sitting in the fridge of an obese man's undersized apartment. All stacked up in white styrofoam containers that read, "Red's BBQ." This is the city of Chicago, the murder capital of the country. Nobody will spend time trying to find a missing convicted felon.

No one will keep looking, the case will go cold.

I will mourn him, with his family, at his funeral. They will have one.

I will hold his son, I will hug him goodbye.

I won't tell them of the burden I personally rid them of.

I won't mention the sickly scent of fried flesh and Sweet Baby Ray's.

I won't mention the cackle coming from the oven when I baked his bones in triple layer brownie batter.

I won't converse over his skull; how it's still sitting in my cats enclosed lemon lime litter box.

I won't tell them this is where he belongs.

They don't know what it feels like to sleep under his strangled lullaby.

I won't remind them of discolored skin. Of the scars.

I will let them remember him a good man. A hard working father.

I won't point out that he spent more time and money on shoes than he did with his son.

I won't recall why he went to jail the first time or the last.

I shall not say I put the monster at rest.

I shall not tell them that I am the reaper, I shall not mention I am the grim.



Prisma Pencil Drawing By Nicole Bradie Thomsen

### Skinny Dipping

By Katie Davisson

We're sitting in my  
best friend's Mustang  
It's red and sleek and  
smells like cherries  
There's a bottle of rum in Sylvie's  
hands

Trent sits in the back,  
his phone lighting his face  
"Take a shot" Sylvie says,  
shoving him the bottle  
He grins, lifting it to his lips,  
and chugs

"Your turn," he gasps  
pushing it towards me  
I grimace, expecting the burn  
as it touches my lips  
They both laugh, saying  
"You can do it!"

I do and soon we're all belligerent  
We get out of the car,  
drinking in the fresh air  
Trent falls, his face hitting the ground

We're at my cousin's  
cabin for the night  
It has a pond and it is summertime,  
The stars and moon  
reflect off the water

Sylvie is the first one to  
take off her shirt  
Then Trent is kicking off  
his Nike's and soon



BRIAN REGAN  
DECEMBER 12

Photo by Nicole B. Thomsen